

City of Raleigh
Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board

Annual Report
March 2010-March 2011



Dear Mayor Meeker and City Councilors-

The City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board (CORHCAB) is excited to present the annual report for the period of March 1, 2010- March 31, 2011.

Background

On September 2, 2008, the Raleigh City Council accepted the *Strategic Plan for the Inventory, Conservation, and Management of Raleigh's Historic Cemeteries* prepared by the Chicora Foundation, Inc. and authorized the establishment of a stakeholder group to work collaboratively with Parks and Recreation Staff in the implementation of the plan. The Board was approved by Council in January 2009 and has met monthly since March 2009.

A STATUS of each GOAL for the term of March 2010-February 2011 is provided below.

GOAL 1: Update the City's existing Cemetery code. Develop a Policy and Maintenance Manual for the operation, use, and routine maintenance of the City's cemetery properties. (carried forward from FY09-10). Develop archeology and cemetery design guidelines.

Task 1: Review cemetery codes from other municipalities and propose changes to Raleigh's existing cemetery code. Work through revision process with City Attorney Office.

Task 2: Develop a Policy and Maintenance Manual for daily operations.

Task 3: Assist in the development of archeology and cemetery design guidelines for incorporation into the Historic District Commission's updated Design Guidelines for 2010-2011.

STATUS: In late 2010, the Board presented City Council with proposed changes to the City Ordinance which clarified permissible and prohibited uses of the City's Cemetery grounds. These changes were adopted by City Council (Ordinance 2011-829) on January 18, 2011.

Board members Jane Thurman and Terry Harper have drafted an outline of a Maintenance Manual for staff and Board review. This project should be complete by end of summer 2011.

Board Members Terry Harper and Betsy Haywood Foard have been attending the Historic Districts planning meetings to make revisions to the Design Guidelines document. This revision will include a section on Archeology and Cemeteries. Revising this document was made possible through the 2010 Historic Preservation Fund Pass-Through Grant awarded to the City in 2010.

GOAL 2: To continue inventory and stabilization efforts within City Cemetery.

Task 1: The Board will contract for the repair of any unstable and/or unsafe situations located with City Cemetery.

Task 2: The Board will contribute financially to the restoration of Peace family plot. (carried forward from FY09-10)

Task 3: The Board will identify the scope and costs associated with a stone-by-stone inventory. (carried forward from FY09-10)

Task 4: The Board will identify the scope and costs associated with an inspection of the mausoleums located at City Cemetery. (carried forward from FY09-10)

STATUS: Restoration of the Peace Family Plot is estimated at \$63,000. Phase I of the project, which will secure, stabilize, and restore four family graves and stone fragments was estimated to cost \$15,000. The Board allocated \$9,000 for these repairs. Combined with funds from Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc. (RCCP), Phase I was recently complete.

The Board reviewed the requirements of the stone-by-stone inventory and believes that this project can be undertaken by trained volunteers working closely with Dean Ruedrich, a specialist in cemetery stone repair and restoration. Mr. Ruedrich also recently completed high priority stabilization work at City Cemetery and an assessment of the iron foundry fence surrounding the cemetery. Stabilization of the cemetery's mausoleum may be restricted to external efforts only since entering the mausoleum would require permits from the Wake County Health Department.

GOAL 3: Develop site amenities plan for Mt. Hope and O'Rorke Cemeteries.

Task 1: The Board will work with City staff to develop site amenities plans for Mt. Hope and O'Rorke-Catholic Cemeteries.

STATUS: Design/Develop staff has been limited in available time to work on cemetery site amenity plans due to staff reassignment and internal restructuring. This work item will be rolled forward to FY11-12.

GOAL 4: Expand needed signage at all 3 cemeteries.

Task 1: The Board will identify needs and costs for signage at Mt. Hope, City, and O'Rorke-Catholic Cemeteries. (e.g., identification, regulatory, interpretation/ educational, and directional)

STATUS: The Board's work on this particular goal was dependent on recent revisions to the City Cemetery Code; this item will now be rolled forward to FY11-12.

GOAL 5: To preserve and protect unsecured items located in City Cemetery.

Task 1: The Board will develop a protocol for the collection, inventory, and storage of unsecured items. (carried forward from FY09-10)

STATUS: The Board's first step included renting a storage trailer to store loose stones. A written protocol for collection, inventory and storage will be prepared FY11-12.

GOAL 6: To secure and protect existing cemetery data and records. To promote web-based access to existing burial records by the general public.

Task 1: The Board will work with City staff to plan for the archiving of existing interment records currently housed at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Task 2: The Board will partner with Raleigh City Cemetery Preservation to provide web-based access of interment records of all 3 cemeteries to the general public.

STATUS: This work item will be completed in FY11-12.

GOAL 7: To research and develop a Volunteer Cemetery Watch program for neighborhoods surround City cemetery properties.

Task 1: The Board will work with Cindy Trumbower, Parks and Recreation Volunteer Services Coordinator to develop this program. (carried forward from FY09-10)

Task 2: The Board will request the Raleigh Police Department to provide routine police patrols in all 3 cemeteries supplemented by the Community Watch program for City Cemetery.

STATUS: Recent vandalism of the William Peace plot emphasized the importance of providing sufficient security to protect the remaining headstones and markers. Cindy Trumbower, the Parks and Recreation Volunteer Coordinator, is working with community around City Cemetery to develop a "Cemetery Watch" program. Invitations were mailed to 200 neighbors and businesses surrounding City Cemetery. An information meeting was held on April 26, 2011 to discuss the program whereby volunteers would assist City Police with patrolling and reporting undesirable activities in City Cemetery.

GOAL 8: Update and expand marketing and public education efforts.

Task 1: The Board will promote the implementation of strategies for City's cemeteries mentioned in Raleigh's Comp 2030 plan.

Task 2: The Board and Parks and Recreation Marketing staff will promote cemeteries as a component of the "Downtown experience".

STATUS: The Board desires to delay cemetery marketing activities until more site security and regular monitoring is available to control public access to the sites.

GOAL 9: To develop landscape plans for the three historic cemeteries to address tree replacement, screening, and general beautification utilizing historically appropriate species.

Task 1: The Board will work with City staff to develop landscape plans for all 3 cemeteries.

STATUS: Design/Develop staff has been limited in time to work on cemetery site amenity plans due to staff reassignment and workload restructuring. This work item will be rolled forward to FY11-12.

Other Work Items

1. Designation as a "Local Historic Landmark" was awarded to the O'Rourke-Catholic Cemetery and National designation was awarded to Mt. Hope and City Cemetery. Plaques recognizing the national status will be purchased and installed at both cemeteries.

Respectfully submitted by the City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board
April 19, 2011